

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LOS ANGELES/OXNARD CA
630 AM PDT FRI APR 7 2006

...WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO SPRING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA?...

FOR THE PAST SEVEN WEEKS OR SO, THE UPPER LEVEL PATTERN ALONG THE WEST COAST HAS FEATURED A SEMI-PERSISTENT DEEP TROUGH WHICH HAS KEPT CONDITIONS UNUSUALLY COOL ACROSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES, DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 15TH THROUGH YESTERDAY APRIL 6TH, TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN BELOW NORMAL ON AN ASTOUNDING 46 DAYS OF THAT 51 DAY STRETCH.

IN MARCH, AVERAGE DAILY TEMPERATURES WERE BELOW NORMAL ON 28 OF THE 31 DAYS IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES...INCLUDING THE FIRST 22 DAYS OF THE MONTH. SO FAR IN APRIL...TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN BELOW NORMAL EVERY DAY.

THE AVERAGE DAILY TEMPERATURE IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH WAS JUST 55.3 DEGREES, 5.4 DEGREES BELOW THE NORMAL OF 60.7 DEGREES. IT WAS THE COLDEST MARCH SINCE 1962...WHEN THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH WAS 55.2 DEGREES. MARCH 2006 TIED MARCH 1952...MARCH 1935...AND MARCH 1898 AS THE 11TH COLDEST MARCH SINCE RECORDS IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES BEGAN IN JULY 1877...A TOTAL OF 129 MARCHES. MARCH 1880...WITH AN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 52.4 DEGREES WAS THE COLDEST EVER IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES.

MARCH WAS THE COLDEST MONTH OF THIS CURRENT WINTER SEASON. NORMALLY, THAT HONOR BELONGS TO DECEMBER, JANUARY, OR FEBRUARY. THIS WAS ONLY THE 12TH TIME IN 129 SEASONS IN WHICH MARCH WAS THE COLDEST MONTH OF THE SEASON.

THE LOW TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH WAS 39 DEGREES ON MARCH 12. IT WAS THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE RECORDED DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH SINCE MARCH 1979, WHEN A LOW OF 37 DEGREES WAS RECORDED ON THE 2ND.

THE AVERAGE DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR MARCH 2006 WAS JUST 63.3 DEGREES, WHICH WAS A WHOPPING 6.5 DEGREES BELOW THE NORMAL OF 69.8 DEGREES. IT TIED MARCH 1962 IN HAVING THE 8TH COOLEST AVERAGE DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE SINCE OFFICIAL RECORDS IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES BEGAN IN JULY 1877.

ON JUST TWO DAYS IN MARCH 2006 DID THE TEMPERATURE REACH OR EXCEED 70 DEGREES IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES, FAR BELOW THE AVERAGE OF 71. TEMPERATURES FAILED TO REACH 60 DEGREES ON 6 DAYS IN MARCH. THIS INCLUDED MARCH 28TH...WHEN THE HIGH WAS JUST 54 DEGREES, A NEW RECORD LOW DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE, COOLER THAN THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 56 DEGREES SET IN 1962. DURING A PARTICULARLY COOL THREE DAY STRETCH FROM THE 10TH THROUGH THE 12TH, MAXIMUM

TEMPERATURES WERE JUST ONE DEGREE BELOW THE RECORD LOW DAILY VALUES ON EACH OF THE THREE DAYS.

RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH TOTALLED 2.87 INCHES IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES, WHICH WAS ACTUALLY 0.27 INCHES BELOW THE NORMAL RAINFALL OF 3.14 INCHES. HOWEVER, MEASURABLE RAIN WAS RECORDED ON 11 DAYS IN MARCH, NEARLY DOUBLE THE AVERAGE OF 6 DAYS.

SINCE JULY 1 2005...THE BEGINNING OF THE 2005-2006 RAIN SEASON... MEASURABLE RAIN HAS BEEN RECORDED IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES ON 34 DAYS. SEVENTEEN OF THOSE DAYS, EXACTLY HALF THE TOTAL, HAVE OCCURRED SINCE FEBRUARY 27TH AND 15 HAVE OCCURRED SINCE MARCH 1ST.

DURING THE PAST 10 DAYS, 2 DAILY RAINFALL RECORDS HAVE BEEN SET IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES. ON MARCH 28TH, 1.62 INCHES OF RAIN WAS RECORDED, BREAKING THE OLD RECORD OF 1.54 INCHES SET IN 1895. ONE WEEK LATER, ON APRIL 4TH, 1.44 INCHES OF RAIN FELL, EDGING OUT THE RECORD OF 1.43 INCHES SET IN 1929.

THE STORM IN EARLY APRIL WAS A PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE LATE SEASON RAIN-PRODUCER ACROSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. IT BROUGHT AN AVERAGE OF 1 TO 3 INCHES OF RAIN TO COASTAL AND VALLEY AREAS OF LOS ANGELES AND VENTURA COUNTIES, WITH 2 TO 4 INCHES ACROSS SANTA BARBARA AND SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES. FOOTHILL AND MOUNTAIN AREAS RECEIVED EVEN MORE RAINFALL, WITH SOME AREAS OF VENTURA AND SOUTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES RECEIVING 6 TO 9 INCHES OF RAIN.

SINCE MARCH 28TH...A TOTAL OF 3.61 INCHES OF RAIN HAS BEEN RECORDED IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES, BRINGING THE SEASONAL TOTAL TO 12.10 INCHES. WHILE STILL FAR BELOW THE WHOPPING 36.01 INCHES OF RAIN TO THIS DATE LAST YEAR, THE RECENT STORMS HAVE HELPED PUSH THE SEASONAL RAINFALL CLOSER TO NORMAL, WITH RAINFALL NOW RUNNING 85 PERCENT OF NORMAL TO THE DATE. EVEN IF NO MORE RAIN FALLS IN LOS ANGELES...WHICH LOOKS VERY UNLIKELY...RAINFALL DURING THE 2005-2006 SEASON WILL BE AROUND 80 PERCENT OF NORMAL. SOME PARTS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARE NOW REPORTING ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL FOR THE SEASON SO FAR.

SEE SEASONAL RAINFALL TABLE BELOW...

HERE IS THE RECORDED SEASONAL RAINFALL TO DATE AT SELECTED STATIONS
 COMPARED TO THE NORMAL RAINFALL TO DATE:

STATION	RECORDED RAIN 7/1/05 – 4/06/06	NORMAL RAINFALL 7/1 – 4/6	PERCENT OF NORMAL TO DATE	LAST YEAR COMPARISON 7/1 – 4/6
LOS ANGELES/USC	12.10 INCHES	14.26 INCHES	85%	36.01 INCHES
LAX	10.01 INCHES	12.43 INCHES	81%	25.28 INCHES
LONG BEACH	7.71 INCHES	12.26 INCHES	63%	28.09 INCHES
BURBANK	13.20 INCHES	16.37 INCHES	81%	34.09 INCHES
CAMARILLO	11.63 INCHES	14.86 INCHES	78%	27.26 INCHES
SANTA BARBARA	19.03 INCHES	16.32 INCHES	117%	29.35 INCHES
SANTA MARIA	14.76 INCHES	13.05 INCHES	113%	18.23 INCHES
PASO ROBLES	12.92 INCHES	12.42 INCHES	104%	21.00 INCHES
SANDBERG	12.07 INCHES	11.86 INCHES	102%	29.37 INCHES
PALMDALE	6.84 INCHES	6.94 INCHES	99%	15.73 INCHES

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